

**Application No. 09/582,175**

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

With reference to FIG. 13, now consider a conventional system with a resin column in a straight tube as shown in FIG. 13. The resin column is displaced a distance **h** to make it compact. Suppose the length of the resin column is **L** and its mass is **m**.

After the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 35, please add the following new paragraphs:

FIG. 12 is a schematic representation of a U tube model of the present invention.

FIG. 13 is a schematic representation of a resin column.

Please delete the illustrations appearing on pages 7 and 8.

**In the Drawings:**

Enclosed is a letter with corrected informal drawings. In particular, figure 1, 2a, 2b, 3a, and 3b have been labeled prior art as requested by the Examiner. The changes have been highlighted in yellow. Please indicate agreement with these changes and they will be made when the formal drawings are submitted. In addition, figures 12 and 13 have been added. These figures were previously included in the specification. No new matter has been added.

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-5 and add new claims 6-14.

6. (New) An apparatus for conducting liquid separation utilizing an ion exchange process, the apparatus comprising:

at least one liquid separation column, each column being divided into first and second vertical compartments, the vertical compartments being joined at their lower ends to form a U-tube portion between the compartments, wherein the first and second compartments are in fluid communication;